



NEWS RELEASE

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JUNE 16, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PURCHASING FIREARM FOR RICHARD EVANS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Columbia, Mo., woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to illegally purchasing a firearm for her former boyfriend, Richard T. Evans, who committed suicide as he was being sought by law enforcement officers in connection with the shooting death of a Columbia, Mo., police officer.

Christinia R. Lowe, 24, of Columbia, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to a charge contained in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 11, 2005, in Jefferson City, Mo.

By pleading guilty, **Lowe** admitted that she made a false statement, namely that a gun she purchased on May 27, 2003, from the Second Amendment Gun Shop in Columbia, was for her when it was actually for Evans.

Lowe made a false statement by representing on a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Form 4473 that she was the actual buyer of a firearm, Graves said. In reality, she was not purchasing the firearm for herself but instead purchasing it for Evans.

Evans shot himself in the head on Jan. 11, 2005, as he was being sought by Columbia Police in connection with the shooting of Officer Molly Bowden on Jan. 10, 2005.

The firearm that **Lowe** purchased for Evans was not the firearm used in the shooting death of Officer Bowden, Graves said. However, during the course of the investigation into Officer Bowden's death, law enforcement officers discovered that **Lowe** assisted Evans in acquiring another firearm, which is, in itself, an illegal activity.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. The case

was investigated by the Columbia, Mo., Police Department, the Boone County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the University of Missouri-Columbia Police Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow